

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 4-30 and 32-39 are pending in this application. Claims 3 and 31 have been canceled. Claims 37-39 have been added. Support for new claims 37 and 38 is found at page 10, lines 24-25. Support for claim 39 is found in original claim 33. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 31. Claims 4-7, 9-10 and 32 have been amended to change dependency. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12 and 25 have been amended to recite more than one compound in the reaction. The remaining amendments are for clarity.

Objection to Priority

The Examiner notes that Applicants have not submitted a certified copy of priority document 1999 4873. Applicants submit herewith a certified copy of the Norwegian priority document.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to Figures 5 to 10. Applicants submit herewith new figures 5 to 10 to replace the originally filed figures. As such, the objection should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Title

The Examiner objects to the title of the invention. Applicants amend the Title as recited above. As such, the objection should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner objects to claim 3 for being an improper dependent claim. Applicants cancel claim 3. As such, the objection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 1-36 as indefinite. Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12 and 25 to recite more than one compound in the reaction.

Applicants amend claims 4 and 5 to delete "onto" and insert "into".

Applicants amend claims 9 and 10 to delete "into" and insert "in".

Applicants amend claim 12 to delete the word "more".

Applicants amend claim 21 to recite a single range.

Applicants amend claim 22 to recite "a plastic backing".

Applicants amend claim 33 to delete the phrase "such as detection of catalytic activity by changes in absorption of light or by detection of fluorescence due to a cleaved substrate".

As Applicants have addressed all outstanding indefiniteness rejections by amendment, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-11, 15, 16, 19-27 and 31-33 as anticipated by Margotat et al. (J. Pharmacol. Methods, Abstract). Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Margotat discloses a process corresponding to the standard procedure of monitoring chemical reactions by utilizing analytical methods in combination with TLC.

On the other hand, the present invention is directed to a method of synthesis, separation and screening in the same bulk of a stationary phase as recited in claim 1. One distinct step in the present invention which is not disclosed or suggested in Margotat is the screening step, in which the separated compounds are

screened in or on the bulk of stationary phase by biological or biochemical methods. The present invention is not anticipated by Margotat, as all the steps of the claimed method are not disclosed in Margotat. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 12, 17, 28 and 34-36 as obvious over Margotat in view of Frank (Tetrahedron, IDS). Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants rely on the arguments presented above to demonstrate that the present invention is not obvious over Margotat. Margotat fails to disclose or suggest the screening step of the present invention as stated above. Frank also fails to disclose the screening step of the present invention. As such, combining Margotat and Frank fails to disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed method. As such, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness and the rejection should be withdrawn, as one of ordinary skill could not combine the cited references and arrive at the claimed invention.

Conclusion

As Applicants have addressed and overcome all objections and rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

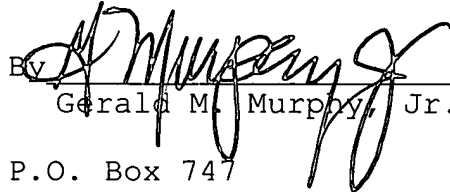
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly,
extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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GMM/KJR/bsh

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

(Rev. 02/20/02)